

Ward 5 Feedback

Allie Gebauer <akgebauer@gmail.com>

Fri 3/11/2022 7:49 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Hello,

I am reaching out to give my feedback regarding the Ward 5 maps. Although I have very recently moved to Ward 4, I was a resident of Ward 5 for several years. (I still feel that I am too new to Ward 4 to really have much to say about the change in boundaries.)

Ward 5 is incredibly diverse. There are some tough and amazing people who live there. Often, they don't feel well represented. I worry that some of these changes could exacerbate rather than help Ward 5 residents' concerns about representation.

To provide context, I lived at an address on Virginia St east of Dale, west of Rice, south of Maryland, and north of Front.

Options 1-2

I would've been moved into Ward 1. As a resident, I feel like I have concerns in common with neighbors north of Como Ave. I care more about what happens in and around Marydale Park and Como Park than what happens on University Ave and on Selby Ave. I would have been disappointed and frustrated by this change.

Option 3

I would've stayed in Ward 5, but my neighbors west of Dale/east of Lexington would have been grouped with Ward 1. I cannot speak on behalf of these residents, but I feel that the railroad (Front, Calvary Cemetery, Como Ave) supports a natural boundary.

Options 4 & 5

These boundaries make the most sense to me and match what I would identify as an area with common interest and need for representation. There are a few blocks carved out north and south of Front Ave west of Rice that I think are confusing. Why not follow the natural boundary that exists there?

The only other feedback I wish to convey is that it is not helpful to review these maps without other data/context. While it can be a good idea to recognize "natural boundaries" that confine a neighborhood, I realize there are histories of red-lining that may put some residents at more of a disadvantage. If a new boundary is suggested on a map with the intention that it will benefit them/give them a better chance of representation, then please provide us with that information.

I appreciate the opportunity to give feedback.

Thank you,
-Allie

Ward boundary change

Maria Reamer <mariareamer@msn.com>

Fri 3/11/2022 9:25 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

To whom it may concern:

We understand St Paul is updating its city council ward boundaries and it appears there is a proposal to slice a small part of Summit Hill and move it from Ward 2 to Ward 1.

Summit Hill has always been kept together in a ward. PLEASE respect historic neighborhood boundaries and keep Summit Hill in one ward as it has been for decades.

Thank you,

Maria and David Reamer
40 Crocus Place
St. Paul, MN 55102

Redistributing summit area

Michelle Bradley <miabradley@aol.com>

Fri 3/11/2022 1:54 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

I am the home owner of 13,Crocus Hill, 55102. I am absolutely against the redistricting our neighborhood. We must remain in ward 1 where we have been for decades. We would not be served by moving to ward2.

Michelle Bradley

Please keep all of summit hill together

Claudia Gumbiner Hungs <cgumbiner@yahoo.com>

Fri 3/11/2022 4:09 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Please respect historic neighborhood boundaries and keep Summit Hill in one ward as it has been for decades.

Thank you for your consideration,
Claudia Gumbiner
8 Crocus Hill
St Paul 55102

Sent from my iPhone

Boundaries

PeggyReichert <par8313@gmail.com>

Tue 3/8/2022 4:25 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Please do not take a teeny bit of summit hill out of ward 2 and out it with ward 1
Please try to respect traditional neighborhood boundaries when possible. It can still be possible to balance population without weird little carve outs as you are suggesting around Dale and Goodrich

Thank you
Peggy Reichert
617 Goodrich

Sent from my iPhone

Redistricting

par8313@gmail.com <par8313@gmail.com>

Fri 3/11/2022 10:51 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Dear Charter Commission Members,

I see you now have posted some new options.
The Summit Hill neighborhood should be kept in one ward. It has been in one ward for decades. The only option that approaches this is now Option 4 but this places Summit Hill with Highland and this makes for a huge geographic area.
Please develop an Option that keeps all of Summit Hill, including the piece up along Summit, in one district and keeps us in Ward 2.
Do not balkanize the neighborhood

Respectfully,
Peggy Reichert
617 Goodrich

Sent from my iPad

St Paul Ward redistricting from voter in Crocus Hill

JENNI AND DOUG DEVENS <chezdevens@aol.com>

Fri 3/11/2022 4:47 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

To whom it may concern,

I have reviewed the [redistricting options](#) presented by the city. To be honest, none of them are very good, but neither is the current set of ward boundaries. I reside at 5 Crocus Place, in Crocus Hill (Crocus Place is a semi-circular road above the terrace down to I-35E.) *My preference would be Option 1, which places us in Ward 1.*

- The current arrangement having us in Ward 2 does us a disservice. Crocus Hill is an afterthought to the WestSide and downtown (which doesn't have that many residents yet, but is certainly growing.) Things that are important to us (e.g. Grand Avenue's health and the awful condition of Summit) don't matter at all to West Side or Downtown. This would be my complaint against options 2, 3 and 5. We get little attention from our councilwoman, which makes sense since we are a small part of her ward.
- My concern with Option 4 is that we are grouped in with Highland, which again is a very different set of concerns from us.
- Option 1, as I allude to above, at least puts us with people who share our concerns about Summit and Grand, though obviously they have other concerns on the other side of I-94. Of course it's not good that the Crocus Hill neighborhood is split up in this option, and if that could be fixed that would be wonderful. However, I don't know the population splits well enough to know if that's possible.

I understand that somebody's ox is always going to get gored in redistricting. That is a fact of life and you have to make the wards approximately equal in size. However, redistricting should group people with similar concerns together. My belief is that my neighbors and I share more with Ward 1 than Ward 2.

Thank you,

Doug Devens

Regarding redistricting

Arlene Goter <arlenegoter@gmail.com>

Mon 3/14/2022 11:10 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

I only recently became aware of this process. In looking at the various options, I don't understand how the public can comment without knowing the rationale for each option. What are the advantages of each option? Lacking that information, I am stymied by the various maps. It also seems unwise to make substantial shifts in the districts if they are based on what is largely acknowledged to have been a failed census process. The ignoring of traditional neighborhood boundaries also seems to be an arbitrary move.

As a citizen of the district, I need more transparency, more information, more time.

Arlene Goter
638 Ashland Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104
Sent from my iPad

Keep district as is

Sarah Flanagan <sarahvflanagan@gmail.com>

Sat 3/12/2022 10:33 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Please retain the current boundaries for Ward 2. It makes sense historically and demographically.

Sarah Flanagan
91 Crocus Place,
St. Paul, MN 55102

St Paul redistricting

M Jennifer Abuzzahab <M.Abuzzahab@childrensmn.org>

Mon 3/14/2022 9:54 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

I am contacting you regarding my concern for the redistricting plans for St. Paul. I understand that the wards must be drawn to satisfy statutory requirements for boundaries as well as population; however this seems to be based on the flawed 2020 Census data. Is there information regarding the changes in the demographics of the newly proposed wards? Of the current proposals, many of the new boundaries seem that they will disproportionately separate the city.

Based solely on my knowledge of the ratio of owner occupied housing, if the wards must be redrawn, option 5 seems to be the best.

please let me know if there is more information regarding the changes in demographics of the proposed ward changes

sincerely-
M. Jennifer Abuzzahab
54 Crocus Place
Saint Paul 55102

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Redistricting Saint Paul

Reynolds, Mike <mreynolds@hamline.edu>

Sat 3/12/2022 3:06 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Good afternoon-

I believe public comment is still open--I was unable to attend the meetings this week, but wanted to register my (strong) preferences: I would endorse either Option One (which appears to be the primary proposal on the [main page here](#)) or Option Three

I have served in various capacities for community work in the Hamline Midway neighborhood -- serving on the District Council in committees (Development; currently on Transportation) and two terms on our Board of Directors; I was involved with neighborhood representatives and Wards 4 & 1 on the community benefits fund initiative following the construction of Allianz field; and in the partnerships between Hamline University and Hamline Elementary.

In all of these efforts, I have been struck by the vitality of the current Hamline Midway district, and the three options which take a chunk of the Midway out of Ward 4 seem to set us on a path to break up the Midway district -- and potentially undermine significant existing community cohesion. Even if the district area remains the same, we would complicate efforts to coordinate with the city in the neighborhood, by requiring engagement across Wards. I am strongly opposed to options 2, 4, and 5.

But in these efforts I've also been struck by how central the business district south of University is to the health and needs of the Midway neighborhood north of University. The existing Ward division along University creates a strange pocket for Ward 1 into business areas that much more centrally/directly impact the communities currently in Ward 4. Put plainly, shifting the Ward 4 boundary south to 94 will strengthen efforts to create cohesive community/business collaborations. I strongly, strongly support options 1 or 3.

Thank you-
Mike Reynolds

--

Professor of English and chair of the department, College of Liberal Arts
Hamline University
651-523-2641
he, him, his

On deck, a handful of men rather specifically rued the day. -- Thomas McGuane, [The Bushwhacked Piano](#)

Ward 4 Boundaries

Renee Spillum <renee.spillum@gmail.com>

Mon 3/14/2022 12:12 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: Anna Peters <anna.c.peters@gmail.com>; Antonio Rodriguez <cineantonio@gmail.com>; Heidi Johnson McAllister <heidi.e.johnson@gmail.com>; Devin Joesting <devin.joesting@gmail.com>; Nathan Roisen <nathan.roisen@gmail.com>; Matty Spillum <mattyspillum@gmail.com>; Pat Thompson <pat@marksimonson.com>; kristin howatt <kristinhowatt@gmail.com>; clayton howatt <clay.r.how@gmail.com>; Megan Conley <meganmaureenconley@hotmail.com>; Alec Armon <armon@hamlinemidway.org>

Dear Charter Commission,

I am a long time Ward 4 resident and parent of two children attending Galtier Elementary. I only recently understood that three of the five redistricting proposals include isolating the Southeast quadrant of the Midway neighborhood south of Minnehaha and east of Snelling. Galtier Elementary is in the very center of the area that would be eliminated from Ward 4.

My family lives west of Snelling and would be part of Ward 4 no matter what, but I am still concerned about this change. That is especially true because it is being proposed on the heels of the closure of Galtier, which has been especially heartbreaking for the families that live right around the school building who have been deeply invested in building the beautiful community there. Options 2, 4, and 5 would isolate that area from its previous Ward.

We are working hard to bring as many families as we can to join with Hamline Elementary to try to keep a strong community school in our neighborhood. We know there is a risk that Hamline, too, would be closed, potentially exposing our children to a second school closure before those displaced from Galtier finish elementary school.

Damaging the unity of the Midway with a new ward boundary that divides it into pieces would make it even more challenging to stabilize Hamline Elementary.

The closure of Galtier has fractured a strong community. We need a chance to rebuild relational ties that make our neighborhood its best, and doing that around a community school that unites the Midway is a powerful opportunity that would benefit from City Council leadership and organizing. The splitting up of our neighborhood at that time would hurt our chances of success.

I hope you all will prioritize Options 1 and 3 that protect the integrity of the Midway. Thank you.

-Renee Spillum
1612 Lafond Avenue

Redistricting Options

Kathy <kathy@highlanddistrictcouncil.org>

Tue 3/15/2022 12:58 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: michelle.j.doyle@gmail.com <michelle.j.doyle@gmail.com>

Charter Commission members,

The Highland District Council would like to see the area on West 7th between Homer and 35E added to Ward 3, mostly because people that live in this area already think they live in the Highland Park neighborhood.

Options 5 and 6 do not seem like they would be a good fit for Ward 3 since the West 7th neighborhood from 35E to downtown has it's own brand/feel, and it makes sense to keep that area with Ward 2.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kathy

Kathy Carruth

Executive Director

Highland District Council

651.695.4005

kathy@highlanddistrictcouncil.org

www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org

Like Us On Facebook! [Highland District Council](#)

Re: Option 6 looks good.

betti ingman <bjingman50@gmail.com>

Tue 3/15/2022 1:35 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Keeping the north most boundary for Ward 1 at Magnolia is appreciated.

I have some concern about that Ward 5 has been extended to include Como to the west and Phalen to the East.

The great range of needs, concerns, goals and economics of those two communities on the West and to the East make that Ward almost impossible to represent well. I would give the east side community by Phalen golf course back to Ward 6 and be done with it.

Thanks for all the work of taking a train wreck and making it better.

On Mon, Mar 14, 2022, 8:28 PM betti ingman <bjingman50@gmail.com> wrote:

So I've had a chance to look at map 5 and I've heard rumor of a map 6. However I haven't seen six.

Based on the map 5 my biggest issue is I absolutely do not support pushing the ward boundary north on Sylvan and across Maryland to 35E.

Push it north to Magnolia and no further.

That northern push makes no sense and actually weakens the current Ward 5 representation.

A BIG NO on the push all the way to Maryland. Stop at Magnolia.

On Fri, Mar 11, 2022, 12:47 PM betti ingman <bjingman50@gmail.com> wrote:

I just noticed a 4th map has been added.

Option 4 is ok.

It follows blocks as natural corridors and is less choppy in its dividing of neighborhoods.

On Fri, Mar 11, 2022, 12:17 PM betti ingman <bjingman50@gmail.com> wrote:

I have viewed the 3 maps under consideration...while all are fundamentally dysfunctional and fail to honor natural corridors, neighborhoods, and the needs of 2,4 and 5 ... If one needed to be chosen MAP 2 is the least deplorable.

Attached for clarification.

None of the decision makers need be proud of this work....quite the opposite indeed.

On Wed, Mar 9, 2022, 9:36 AM *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Betti,

Thank you for submitting a written comment to the Charter Commission. Your comments will be attached to the public record and made available for the Charter Commission members to review.

Best,
Kristin

Charter Commission Staff

15 W Kellogg Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55102
P: 651-266-8560
CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us
www.StPaul.gov

From: betti ingman <bjingman50@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 12:58 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Redistricting insanity

As a resident of St Paul I question the Tetris-like insanity of the proposed REDISTRICTING of Wards 1,5, and 2.

This is my neighborhood and these boundaries chop up our neighborhoods and weaken our representation with these completely confusing boundaries?

Not a single main corridor was followed.

It makes absolutely no sense.

It is also noted that only the perceived disenfranchised neighborhoods were targeted with this ridiculous decision-making.

We deserve easy and clear access to understanding our district boundaries.

This horrible redistricting has been made public and this needs to be changed.

I'd ask the consulting firm that came up with offensive and random mapping for your money back.

Unbelievable.

Did you really think people would accept this? Is the leadership that out of touch and still that rooted in systemic racism?

What were you thinking?

A resident,
Betti Ingman

concerns about redistricting

Bethany Gladhill <bethany@gladhill.org>

Wed 3/16/2022 8:40 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Honorable Members of the Charter Commission,

My name is Bethany Gladhill, and I live at 627 Ashland in Saint Paul (Ward 1). I am writing today with concern about the proposed redistricting plan(s) for Saint Paul's seven wards.

I have read the 80-page study, and compared the 5 different proposed maps that I could find, and I am afraid they have provided me little information as to the redistricting criteria and process. My understanding is that redistricting is generally done, when done correctly, to balance out demographics in an area; however, I find very little information about those demographics in the report. The information *seems* to be based on census data, which as we all know, was extremely flawed for the 2020 census, including what appears to be a persistent undercount of people of color. I am wary about making changes based on this data, which could have serious errors.

Nor do I see how, even if correct, this data flows to the redistricting plans. I know you have top mapping people on the city staff, but in my ward (Ward 1) in particular, the proposed maps seem wildly different, and I don't understand how they could achieve the same results.

I commend the Council's wish to keep long-held communities together, and respectfully request that ward redistricting be done as minimally as possible, and with a longer period of public commentary.

(same message sent individually to council members)

Bethany Gladhill
she/her/hers
Arts and Non-Profit Management Consultant
bethany@gladhill.org
612.414.3790 mobile

web - <http://www.gladhill.org>
blog - <http://prologuist.blogspot.com>
twitter - @bethanyg

Redistricting: Option 6 preferred

Karin G <karing@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/15/2022 10:12 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

To: Saint Paul Charter Commission,

I commented about the Ward 5/Ward 1 boundary at your March 10 meeting, because I was concerned about splitting the neighborhood around Marydale Park. Now that I've looked at the newer options, I wanted to provide more input.

I do not like Option 1 or 2 because they include this split of the neighborhood around Marydale. I would prefer Dale or Western be the boundary to keep this section where the community has common interests and concerns together in one ward.

Option 3 does not include this split, which is good for the Marydale Park part of the North End, but it is an odd shape for Ward 5, and even odder for Ward 1. It would be harder for people to know which ward they are in.

Options 4, 5, and 6 do a much better job of keeping the North End lines closer to their current locations, but looking at the city over all Option 6 seems to be less disruptive for everyone. Option 6 makes smaller adjustments to all wards rather than shifting large areas of any one ward. It is closer to existing boundaries. Option 6 would be my choice.

Regards,
Karin Groening

1040 Arundel St.
St Paul, MN 55117

Fwd: Redistrict Map

Miranda Meyer <mirmeyer002@gmail.com>

Tue 3/15/2022 2:51 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Miranda Meyer** <mirmeyer002@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Mar 15, 2022 at 1:49 PM

Subject: Redistrict Map

To: <charter.commission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Hello — my name is Miranda Meyer and I'm a home owner and business owner in the North End of Saint Paul. (85 hatch Ave W)

Amy B is currently my ward rep — personally - I don't care how y'all mix us up - SO LONG AS I DO NOT END UP WITH DAI THAO AS MY REP.

I will put my house on the market and never look back should I end up with him as my Rep. He is a an absolute garbage council person, he NEVER replies to issues, he's never around when there's things going on, he seems to have taken the position for the notoriety of having the seat. He does not give one ounce of a shit about his responsibilities. Amy does what she can for our/her district AND Dai's - because Dai is consistently never able to be reached for contact or he just blatantly ghosts his position. You can see the difference in the mere FEET of boundaries between his and Amy's zones. Walk the north end. You will see clearly where her zone ends and his begins. It's really sad.

Again I reiterate — should it come to fruition that Dai becomes my new council rep — I will move from Saint Paul. I don't care how the map gets divvied up - please do not put me in any ward what would be controlled by Dai. He's so absent that he might as well not even be a rep. Leave Park and Hatch under Amy's hand and I could care less how else everything else happens to go down.

Thank you.

Redistricting

par8313@gmail.com <par8313@gmail.com>

Wed 3/16/2022 8:58 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Dear Charter Commission members

Thank you for all your work on redistricting, especially with the short time frame you were given.

From my perspective, either Option 5 or 6 work best at keeping traditional neighborhoods of interest together. Option 6 keeps Summit Hill together and adds Ramsey Hill which also seems to be a community with common interests and concerns.

Again, thank you for all your efforts.

Respectfully,
Peggy Reichert
617 Goodrich Avenue

Sent from my iPad

please follow "communities of interest" as most important consideration

Sonja Mason <sonjainfo@comcast.net>

Wed 3/16/2022 11:12 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Please weight the importance of **communities of interest**, namely **District council boundaries** and neighborhood boundaries over that of redrawn state legislative boundaries. For local issues, the local boundaries are much more meaningful.

Please, too, weight the importance of **simple shapes, straight lines and physical boundaries** highly and avoid the jagged boundaries. All 6 options have boundaries that zig zag up and down, most markedly between Ward 5 and Ward 1. The current W5/W1 boundary follows Front Avenue from Lexington to just past Rice, where it jogs around the capitol. While following Pierce Butler would be even better as it align with DC boundaries and the parallel RR tracks create a significant physical boundary, Front Avenue is nonetheless a logical and easy to follow alternative border, being a straight line and a major street.

Of the 6 options, Option 6 is the closest to aligning with communities of interest, but it still creates new divisions: W 7th, Mac G become more divided. Union Park continues to be divided.

Sincerely
Sonja Mason
Summit Hill Resident

Terri Phillips Polling Place Testimony

kari sheldon <kari.sheldon17@gmail.com>

Wed 3/16/2022 12:55 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission <CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Chair Freeman,

This testimonial is from a resident at Lewis Park Apartments. She, like I only understand Polling Places and not much of the Redistricting part.

Terri Phillips Polling Place Testimony

My name is Terri Phillips. I have lived at Lewis Park Apartments since 1980. I have been an Election Judge since 2002. The reason that Ward 1 Polling place should be moved back to Lewis Park Apartments is because more room and more convenient for people in wheelchairs, scooters, and people who have trouble walking.

Kari Sheldon
180 Wayzata St W
#105
St. Paul, MN 55117
Cell: 651-313-0878
Fax: 651-797-3743
kari.sheldon17@gmail.com